

# DELAWARE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Kuumba Academy Charter School  
Community Education Building  
1200 N. French St., Wilmington, DE 19801

September 19, 2019  
5:00 P.M.

**Members Present:** Candice Fifer; Vincent Lofink; Dr. Audrey Noble; Dorcas Olatunji; Rev. Provey Powell, Jr.; and Wali Rushdan II.

**Members Absent:** Nina Lou Bunting; Whitney Sweeney.

**Others Present:** Rae Mims, Deputy Attorney General, representing the SBE; Dr. Susan Bunting, SBE Executive Secretary and the Secretary of Education; Jenna Ahner, SBE Executive Director; Kathleen Smith, SBE Administrative Assistant; Chuck Longfellow, DDOE; Deb Hansen, DDOE; Susan Haberstroh, DDOE; Jennifer Davis, DDOE; Kendall Massett, DCSN; Sally Maldonado, Kuumba Academy; Ayanna Johnson, Kuumba Academy; Noelle Picara, Kuumba Academy; Maureen Masters, Kuumba Academy; Samantha Connell, Kuumba Academy; Michael Curry, Wilmington University; James Stallings, Community Education Building, Darryl Parsons, Department of Justice.

### I. Opening

#### A. Call to Order:

Dr. Noble called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

#### B. Roll Call

Ms. Smith conducted roll call for the meeting with five members present (Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

Ms. Olatunji arrived at 5:14 and was marked present.

#### C. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Rev. Powell and seconded by Mr. Lofink to approve the September 19, 2019 agenda as presented. *The motion carried* (5 Yes to 0 No - Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

D. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes for August 15, 2019

A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Ms. Fifer to approve the August 15, 2019 minutes as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No - Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

## II. State Board Business

### A. Committee Reports

#### 1. Committee and Meeting Reports

Ms. Olatunji arrived and was marked present.

Board members provided updates on recent Board business and committee participation. Mr. Lofink participated in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Subcommittee meeting and attended the Redding Consortium meeting as well as a Howard High School Advisory Board event. Rev. Powell participated in the Vision Coalition of Delaware meeting and attended the Redding Consortium meeting. Ms. Olatunji shared that she attended the Redding Consortium meeting as well as a roundtable discussion held by Senator Tom Carper. Dr. Noble attended the Get Delaware Reading Steering Committee meeting. She shared information regarding the upcoming meeting of the P-20 Council Early Literacy Subcommittee and a meeting with United Way of Delaware to discuss the Get Delaware Reading campaign. Mr. Rushdan attended the Redding Consortium meeting and the Welcome Back event at Thomas Edison Charter School.

#### 2. NASBE Meeting Delegate

Dr. Noble and Ms. Ahner will be attending the NASBE conference in October. A motion was made by Mr. Lofink and seconded by Rev. Powell to select Dr. Noble as the Board's delegate at the NASBE Conference. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

#### 3. CTE Committee Update

Mr. Lofink and Ms. Ahner provided an update on the progress of the Board's CTE Subcommittee. The Board discussed the timeline and the stakeholder engagement process. Dr. Noble thanked Mr. Lofink and Ms. Ahner on behalf of the Board for their work.

### B. Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles

Since May 2019 the Board has been working on updating its vision, mission, and guiding principles and on revising its strategic plan. The Board commended Ms. Ahner for compiling their feedback. Board members discussed where students could be mentioned in the strategic plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Rushdan and seconded by Ms. Fifer to approve the proposed language on the vision, mission, and guiding principles for the State Board of Education. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

### **C. Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Ahner provided an update on recent activities in her office. Board members asked questions regarding the membership of the committee that is discussing the charter school financial framework. They also discussed NASBE's recent resources on CTE and the focus on equity in CTE.

## **III. Secretary's Report**

Dr. Susan Bunting provided her report. Board members asked questions about the distribution and monitoring of Opportunity Funding. Board members also asked about districts who are using their Opportunity Funding to focus on community and parent engagement.

## **IV. Presentations**

### **A. Kuumba Academy Charter School Presentation**

Ms. Sally Maldonado, Head of School; Ms. Ayanna Johnson, Principal; Samantha Connell, Director of Instruction; Ms. Maureen Masters, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher; and Noelle Picara, Arts Integration Specialist, made a presentation to the Board.

Ms. Maldonado shared an overview of Kuumba Academy. Ms. Connell and Ms. Picara shared information regarding Kuumba's expeditionary learning model and working together toward a common goal. Ms. Masters shared information regarding Kuumba's extended learning opportunities including family engagement, parent input, and summer programming. Ms. Johnson shared information regarding the school's approach to addressing trauma. She discussed the investment in school counseling and partnerships with outside organizations.

Board members asked questions regarding how other districts can learn from Kuumba's success in engaging families in their children's educational process and if it is possible to scale the work that they are doing. Board members asked about the biggest challenge that the school faces, the benefits of having the school located within the community that most students are from, the summer programming, and about student engagement through the expeditionary learning model.

### **B. Charter School Update**

Dr. Chuck Longfellow, Associate Secretary, Operations Support, Department of Education, provided an update on charter schools. He noted that all public hearings on renewals will be held in New Castle County based on the Board's feedback at the August meeting. The charter renewal process timeline was provided.

Dr. Longfellow provided an overview of Odyssey Charter School's monthly report. Board members noted that the committees were scheduled to submit proposed actions to the Odyssey Board by September 17. Board members asked if any action was taken and if that information will be available to the Charter School Accountability Committee (CSAC) for consideration during Odyssey's upcoming renewal. The Board also asked about the timeline and scope for the investigatory audit. Board members commented that the Citizens' Budget Oversight Committee minutes have been on the school's website for multiple years.

Dr. Longfellow reported that DDOE has received a lease from Las Americas ASPIRA Academy that the school feels fulfills the condition set forth by CSAC, Secretary Bunting, and the State Board of Education. He shared that there is a potential issue with the landlord that is currently being looked into. Board members discussed a concern that the lease is with a religious entity and expressed interest in learning more about historical precedence and the context of schools that have contracted with religious organizations in the past.

### C. Transportation Formula Update

Dr. Longfellow reported that a new formula is needed since the current one dates back several decades. The formula change is estimated to cost \$3.6 million. Changes to the formula aim to make it more equitable and more efficient. According to Regulation 1150, the formula must be approved by the State Board of Education.

Board members asked if the formula would allow more flexibility for schools, if the proposed formula will incentivize efficiencies, and if there are any challenges or negative aspects of shifting the formula. In addition, Board members asked how many schools will be impacted. They asked about how the proposed formula was generated and if information from other states was considered.

### D. Delaware Literacy Plan

Dr. Christine Alois, Department of Education's Deputy Secretary, provided an overview of the Delaware Literacy Plan. She noted that the plan aligns with the Board's strategic priority around early literacy. Dr. Alois shared that many community organizations are supporting literacy and that Delaware needed a plan created by educators to allow a platform for these groups to plug into. She highlighted the four strategic intents to meet the goal of literacy: aligning instruction to standards, using high-quality instructional materials, enhancing early literacy instruction, and supporting educators through institutes of higher learning.

Board members asked about the definition of high-quality instructional materials (HQIM), what the Department is seeing in the field related to HQIM, and how the Department can support districts to choose, adopt, and implement HQIM.

## V. Regulations

### A. DDOE Regulations for Discussion and Action

#### 1. Regulation 545 – K to 12 School Counseling Programs

Ms. Susan Haberstroh and Ms. Jennifer Davis of the Delaware Department of Education provided information regarding Regulation 545.

Board members asked questions regarding the student to counselor ratio and about differences between school counseling at the elementary and secondary levels. The Board discussed the role of school counselors. Board members asked about the plans that are outlined in the regulation and how DDOE monitors them.

A motion was made by Mr. Rushdan and seconded by Rev. Powell to approve Regulation 545 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

## 2. Regulation 917 – Accelerated Academic Programs

Ms. Deb Hansen of the Delaware Department of Education provided information regarding Regulation 917.

Board members asked questions regarding current funding and implementation of this work.

A motion was made by Mr. Rushdan and seconded by Rev. Powell to approve Regulation 917 as presented. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

### B. PSB Regulations for Discussion or Action

Dr. Noble noted that the following regulations have been posted for public comment and next steps will be determined by the Professional Standards Board. Persons wishing to present their views regarding this matter may do so in writing by the close of business on or before October 2, 2019.

1. Regulation 1501 - Knowledge, Skills, and Responsibility Based Salary Supplements (For Information)
2. Regulation 1549 - Dance Teacher (For Information)
3. Regulation 1558 - Theater Teacher (For Information)
4. Regulation 1563 - Music Teacher (For Information)

### C. Public Comment on Regulations

No public comments were received.

## VI. Formal Public Comment

No public comments were received.

## VII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rushdan and seconded by Ms. Fifer. ***The motion carried*** (5 Yes to 0 No – Fifer, Lofink, Noble, Powell, and Rushdan).

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

***Digital recordings of the meeting can be found in the “audio recordings” section of the State Board of Education’s website.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan S. Bunting, Ed.D.  
Executive Secretary and  
Secretary of Education